

In the Southern California area, ARES provides emergency communications for the Red Cross during the wildfire season. Due to the mountainous terrain , *) meter Near Vertical Incidence Skywave is frequently used where access to VHF/UHF repeaters is blocked. It is my fear that the proposed PLC distribution of internet services will raise the noise floor in the HF spectrum to such levels that emergency communications with low power transmitters will be greatly hindered. The noise floor on these lower HF bands is already severe due to power line noise, and an increased noise floor due to unintentional radiation of power line carriers will require all station to use higher power, thus limiting our communication endurance in remote areas during two week fires such as the Pines fire of the summer of 2002.